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(30) Priority: **13.08.2001 JP 2001245537**

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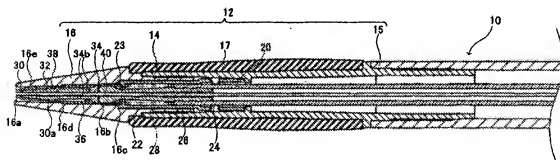
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(54) **Mechanical pencil**

(57) A mechanical pencil (10), includes an external cylinder (12), a lead delivery mechanism (20) disposed in the external cylinder, the lead delivery mechanism having a lead-fastening chuck (22) which fastens a lead and moves back and forth in the external cylinder to deliver the lead (40) toward a front end of the external cylinder, a lead holder disposed before the lead delivery

mechanism in the external cylinder to gently hold a lead (40), and a guide member arranged between the lead-fastening chuck and the lead holder in the external cylinder and always urged backwardly toward the lead-fastening chuck to protect a lead portion between the lead-fastening chuck and a lead holding portion of the lead holder.

**Fig.1**



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 01 31 0188

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	BE 464 579 A (BRAC S.A.) 31 May 1946 (1946-05-31) * figure * * page 2, paragraph 2 * -----	1,2,18, 19	B43K21/22
X	US 2 184 911 A (KURT FEND) 26 December 1939 (1939-12-26) * figures 1,2 * * page 2, column 2, line 60 - page 3, column 2, line 54 * -----	1,2,18, 19	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B43K A45D
<del>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</del>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		29 October 2003	van Overbeek, K
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

EPO FORM 1503 (12-02) (Rev.2/03)



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#### CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

#### LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

1-14, 18, 19



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION  
SHEET B

Application Number  
EP 01 31 0188

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-14,18,19

A mechanical pencil comprising a guide member and a lead holder, one being insertable in the other

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2. claims: 1,15

A mechanical pencil whereby the lead holder has a protrusion elastically contacting an inner periphery of an external cylinder

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3. claims: 1,16

A mechanical pencil comprising a lead holder pushed forwardly by a guide member in an external cylinder and held a an advancing position during writing

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4. claims: 1,17

A mechanical pencil comprising a lead holder, unmovable under operation in the external cylinder

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 01 31 0188

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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29-10-2003

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